

FLORIDA **A&M** UNIVERSITY
Board of Trustees

Meeting Minutes
February 17, 2022

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Kelvin Lawson, Chair

Chair Lawson called the meeting to order. Attorney Barge-Miles called the roll and a quorum was established. The following trustees were present: Cavazos, Cliatt, Dortch, Dubose, Harper, Lawrence, Lawson, Moore, Perry, Reed, Stone, Washington, and Whigham.

Next, Chair Lawson took a few moments to recognize Trustee David Lawrence, on his last day as a member of the FAMU Board of Trustees. He highlighted that Trustee Lawrence had made tremendous contributions to the Board, to FAMU, and to the Developmental Research School. Trustee Lawrence shared that serving on FAMU’s Board has been the most meaningful board he has served on. He said that he considers himself a Rattler for life!

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public comments regarding Truth Hall were presented by Mr. Delaitre Hollinger, president of the National Association for the Preservation of African American History and Culture.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Dr. Larry Robinson, President

Chair Lawson recognized President Robinson for his report. He began his report by sharing a brief video, which highlighted events that occurred since the December Board meeting.

President Robinson confirmed to the Board that FAMU is safe, in light of the recent bomb threats received by several HUBUs. He said that the University will do everything possible to ensure the safety of the University community. President Robinson also shared that members of the Leon County Bomb Response Team and members of the Sheriff’s SWAT team came to campus and assessed its readiness and provided recommendations.

President Robinson reminded the Board that the University’s current Strategic Plan was closing out. He said that he was pleased with the progress has been made.

Next, he shared an update on the Performance-Based Funding Metrics:

2020	2021	METRIC	2022
79.7%	85.8%	FTIC full-time second-year retention rate	88%
73.0%	82.2%	Academic progress rate (second-year FTIC full-time retention w/ GPA above 2.0)	85%

2020	2021	METRIC <i>(continued)</i>	2022
26.9%	34.6%	FTIC full-time 4-year graduation rate	40%
53.6%	55.8%	FTIC full-time 6-year graduation rate	60%
53.5%	56.2%	Percent of bachelor's degrees without excess credit hours	60%
65.6%	69.1%	Percent of bachelor's graduates enrolled or employed full-time (earning \$25,000+)	75%
\$33,500	\$34,500	Median Wages of bachelor's graduates employed full-time	\$38,000
\$6,570	\$2,370	Average cost to student	\$11,000
47.8%	47.2%	Bachelor's degrees awarded in programs of strategic emphasis	55%
51.7%	44.6%	Graduate degrees awarded in programs of strategic emphasis	65%
925	884	FCS AA transfers headcount enrollment	1,100

President Robinson acknowledged the following accomplishments:

- Fundraising for this year has surpassed \$18M;
- The licensure passage rate for the 2021 pharmacy graduates was 89.9%, surpassing the state and national averages;
- The School of Journalism and Graphic Communication and the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering are amongst the 13 newest academic partners with NBCU Academy.
- The University has been awarded 126 research awards totaling \$51.7M.
- The University is maintaining its R1 Classification (high research)
- The FAMU Developmental Research School (DRS) celebrated Governor Brian Lamb Day on January 24, 2022. Governor Brian Lamb is the chair of the Florida Board of Governors and is a DRS alumnus. While there, Governor Lamb issued a \$100,000 challenge to the school to promote science, technology, engineering, arts, and math.
- Individuals working in the COVID-19 site at FAMU were named “Persons of the Year” by the Tallahassee Democrat.

COVID-19 UPDATE:

Rica Calhoun, chief compliance and ethics officer, reported that the goal regarding the Omicron surge has been to provide as many mitigating measures as possible. The University provided the more protective KN-95 masks to the University community. Since January 3, 2022, over 46,000 masks have been distributed. Updated communications and guides were distributed and a town hall was held on January 6, 2022. The University is still encouraging regular screening and testing, as well as vaccinations, with the main focus being safety.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (SGA) REPORT

Trustee and Student Government Association (SGA) president Carrington Whigham presented an update. She said that the SGA has been making sure that student engagement is high and that students are receiving the information that they need. She said that the students supported the athletic teams by attending three out-of-town football games.

Trustee Whigham and her administration have passed legislation establishing the Office of Diversity and Inclusion. They have implemented the Safety Teams and the University now have over 1500 cameras in the Police Department. They also instituted mandatory sexual awareness training for all FAMU students. She said that they have completed over 75% of their platform points.

Trustee Whigham shared that she and two other Rattlers were named to the inaugural class as “Rising Future Makers” by AT&T (*future leaders of tomorrow*). She ended her report with the news that she was accepted into the London School of Economics.

FACULTY SENATE REPORT

Chair Lawson recognized Trustee Cavazos for the Faculty Senate report. She highlighted the accomplishments of several faculty:

- Dr. Elise Simmons was a presenter at the 41st Annual Conference on the First-Year Experience, which supports increasing stem enrollment persistence and support for Black students in STEM majors.
- Dr. Daniel Osborne completed a research article which was accepted for publication in METRON journal.
- FAMU researchers, Dr. Novell Tani and Dr. Peggy Auman, in partnership with their Florida State University counterparts, received a \$1.5M federal grant renewal to support recruitment and academic success of doctoral students from underrepresented populations.
- Dr. Charles Magee was awarded a US patent for systems and methodology for rehydrating perishable items during storage and transportation.
- Professor Vasile Lauric published four research papers during his sabbatical.
- Dr. Kyle Eidahl, presented a paper to the Napoleonic Historical Society entitled, “Gillray’s Revenge” early images of Napoleon and the enduring power of caricature.”
- College of Law Professor Jennifer Smith published a scholarly work entitled “Historically Black Colleges and Universities: A Model for American Education. She also appeared as a speaker on five panels and continues to serve on the National Conference of Bar Examiners Content Scope Committee and on the Florida Bar Federal Court Practice Committee.
- Drs. Merlin Langley and Kenisha Thomas were accepted into the Fall 2021 Cohort of the Association of Colleges University Educators (ACUE) Effective Online Teaching Practices.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Prior to moving into committee reports, Chair Lawson recognized Trustee Thomas Dortch, who was being saluted as a Black-owned business. He also congratulated Trustee, Dr. Kimberly Moore, on receipt of her doctoral degree.

Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Trustee Nicole Washington, Chair

Trustee Washington reported that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee met and recommended approval of leave without pay for Rhoda Cato. The Committee also heard updates regarding campus security, academic program prioritization, and tenure upon appointment.

Audit and Compliance Committee

Trustee Craig Reed, Chair

Chair Lawson recognized Trustee Reed for the Audit and Compliance Committee report. He shared that the Committee recommended approval of an update to BOT Policy 2020-01 Fraud Prevention and Detection and the PBF Data Integrity Certification document. He stated that Chief Compliance and Ethics Officer Rica Calhoun presented a compliance report and VP Maleszewski and Deidre Melton presented several informational items.

Budget, Finance and Facilities Committee

Trustee Kimberly Moore, Chair

Trustee Moore stated that the Committee recommended approval of the Student Accounts Receivable Write-Offs. The Committee heard updates regarding the Financial Status Report / Quarterly Budget Review; the MWBE; Bragg Memorial Stadium renovation; the Master Plan/Housing Study, the Compensation Study Update, and a Stimulus Funding Expenditure Report. Trustee Moore also announced the upcoming BOT Budget Workshop.

Trustee Moore noted that the Committee has several follow-ups listed below:

- a. The Committee will be provided a profile of students that have an uncollected debt based on the Student Accounts Receivable Write-Offs (e.g. show a breakdown by college, degree program, undergraduate/graduate student).
- b. The University will work with a consulting firm /construction firm that specializes in renovating older buildings in an effort to preserve historical buildings.
- c. Note: Additional Housing Study comments from Trustee Cliatt were not heard during the Committee meeting due to technical difficulty; however, they were emailed. The comments related to a) restricting additional amenities for newer buildings for students only and b) ensuring certification of barbers and stylists as service providers for new amenities.

Direct Support Organizations Committee

Trustee Stone, Committee Member

Trustee Stone reported that the Direct Support Organizations (DSO) Committee convened on February 16, 2022. The Committee approved the minutes from the December 2, 2021 meeting. The Committee received an update on divisional activities for University Advancement, with over \$18.5 million raised to date. The committee also received updates for the FAMU Foundation, FAMU National Alumni Association, and the FAMU Rattler Boosters.

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Governance

Trustee Kimberly Moore, Committee Member

Trustee Moore reported that the Governance Committee met yesterday and approved the minutes. The Committee also heard an update from Attorney Shira Thomas regarding proposed revisions to the Board of Trustee Operating Procedures. The Committee will hold a workshop to review and recommend to the full Board, changes to the procedures. Danielle McBeth presented an update on Government Relations and Trustee Dortch reviewed the timelines for the President’s goals, the Board’s evaluation of President Robinson, and the Board’s self-evaluation.

Special Committee on Athletics

Kelvin Lawson, Chair

Chair Lawson shared that the Special Committee on Athletics provided an update on the overall budget and the return visit by the National Collegiate Athletic Association. The Committee also heard from two student-athletes. VP Gosha discussed a mentoring program and a number of infrastructure upgrades in the Athletics Department.

Special Committee on the College of Law

Trustee Belvin Perry, Chair

Trustee Perry reported that the Special Committee on the College of Law met and approved the minutes. The Committee then heard an update from the law school consultant, Barry Currier. The Committee instructed Mr. Currier to submit a written final report within 60-days from February 16, 2022. The report will be submitted to the Committee and then to the full Board. Next, Dean Keller discussed the most recent law graduates’ performance on the Bar examination and the licensure passage rate improvement plan.

Strategic Planning/Performance Measures Committee

Trustee Kristin Harper, Chair

Trustee Harper indicated the Committee met and approved its minutes. She also stated that the current Strategic Plan will reach completion of the fifth year in June 2022. She said that Dr. McMurray provided an update on the focus groups and where they were in the planning process, along with the timelines. She stated that phase two of the new plan began in the fall of 2021 with the formation of five subcommittees. Based on the strategic priorities each subcommittee identified recommendations for goals and strategies. She said that the committee will continue to refine the goals and strategies and develop action plans within the respective subcommittees through the end of February 2022.

Phase Three begins in March 2022. The committee will finalize goals, strategies, and actions. They will also develop key performance indicators. The final plan will be submitted to the full Board of Trustees for approval at the June 2022 meeting.

Trustee Harper recounted that listening sessions were conducted in the fall semester and focus groups were held in January. The University will be holding town halls on March 3rd, March 10th,

and March 24th, to solicit additional feedback, which will be reviewed and incorporated into the proposed goals and strategies.

Trustee Harper closed by stating that it's important that feedback is garnered from all constituents to ensure consistency and clarity for the new strategic plan.

CONSENT AGENDA

Trustee Moore moved approval of the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Trustee Washington and the motion carried unanimously.

The consent agenda included the following items:

Board of Trustees (BT)

BT1 December 2, 2021 Minutes

Academic and Student Affairs Committee (ASA)

ASA1 Academic Calendars (2023-2024)

ASA2 Sabbatical and Professional Development Leave

ASA3 Request for Leave Without Pay – Rhoda Cato

Audit and Compliance Committee

AACC1 Update to BOT Policy 2020-01 Fraud Prevention and Detection

AACC2 PBF Certification Document

Budget, Finance and Facilities Committee (BFF)

BFF1 Student Accounts Receivable Write-Offs

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business for the Board, the meeting adjourned.